

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the present application.

I. ALLOWED CLAIMS

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 2-5 and 7 are allowable.

II. FORMAL DRAWINGS

The Office Action does not indicate whether the formal drawings filed on March 24, 2003 have been approved, as Applicant requested in the amendment filed on November 24, 2003. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to do so.

III. PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

A. Claim 1

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,825,347 (Prinsen). This rejection is traversed.

Applicant submits that in the screen saver taught by Prinsen, there is no light intercepting portion that intercepts light applied to the image display device or light transmitted from the image display device, as recited by claim 1. Instead, the screen

saver simply changes the image that is displayed on the screen from the normal image to the screen saver image. Specifically, column 5, lines 32-34 teaches that "[w]hen this time [predetermined length of time in which no input by the user is detected] has elapsed, the electronic image shown in Fig. 5 replaces the pre-existing image on the display screen." There is no intercepting of light. Rather, an image is always shown on the display screen 50.

The Examiner asserts that it is inherent that when the image is displayed, light be can be transmitted through, and when the image is off, light is intercepted. Applicant submits that this statement is not completely accurate. This is because an image is off not only when light is physically intercepted by a light intercepting portion disposed between an observer and a backlight, but also when light is prevented from arriving at an observer by turning off a backlight. Accordingly, image-off occurs also in turning off the backlight.

In addition, Applicant submits that in Prinsen, even if there is a moment that nothing is displayed in switching from a normal image to a screen saver image, Prinsen does not disclose intercepting light by the light intercepting portion in such a switching.

Therefore, Applicant submits that Prinsen does not teach each and every feature of claim 1. Thus, the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) is overcome.

B. Claims 8-12

Claims 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prinsen. This rejection is traversed.

This rejection is substantially similar to the rejection of claims 8-12 presented in the office action dated September 9, 2003.

As presented above in the discussion of claim 1, Prinsen's conventional screen saver program does not include a light intercepting portion that intercepts light applied to the image display device or light transmitted from the image display device, as recited in amended claim 1, on which claims 8-12 depend.

Also, regarding claim 8, on which claims 9-12 depend, Applicant submits that Prinsen does not teach or suggest a shield member comprising a liquid crystal optical shutter, as recited by claim 8. Further, because Prinsen does not teach or suggest a liquid crystal optical shutter, there is no teaching or suggestion to intercept light applied to and from an image display device, as recited by claims 10 and 11, respectively. These arguments were presented in the amendments filed on June 23, 2003 and November 24, 2003. However, it appears that the Examiner has not responded to these arguments.

Further, regarding claim 9, Applicant submits that the screen saver of Prinsen does not shut off an image in an interval between frames, as recited by claim 9. The present invention is not a screen saver. Rather, it is a device that can improve the quality of the image displayed by a display screen by minimizing contrast reduction.

The Examiner has not commented on these remarks, which were presented in the amendments filed on June 23, 2003 and November 24, 2003.

Therefore, since Prinsen does not teach each and every feature of claims 8-12, Applicant submits that the rejection of claims 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is improper.

C. Claims 6 and 13

Claims 6 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prinsen in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,828,427 (Faris). This rejection is traversed.

As presented above, Prinsen's conventional screen saver program does not include a light intercepting portion that intercepts light applied to the image display device or light transmitted from the image display device, as recited in amended claim 1, on which claims 6 and 13 depend.

Applicant submits that Faris fails to make up for the above-noted deficiencies of Prinsen. That is, Faris fails to teach or suggest a light intercepting portion that intercepts light applied to the image display device or light transmitted from the image display device. The Examiner does not assert that Faris teaches this feature of claim 1. Rather, the Examiner relies on Faris for the teaching of a flat panel display panel having direct and projection viewing modes of operation, and an electro-optical backlighting panel having a light emission state and a light transmission state.

Claim 13 depends on claim 9. As presented above, the screen saver of Prinsen does not shut off an image in an interval between frames, as recited by claim 9. Faris fails to make up for these deficiencies of Prinsen.

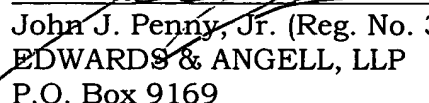
Therefore, since the combination of Prinsen and Faris fails to form the invention defined by claims 6 and 13, Applicant submits that the rejection of claims 6 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is improper.

Therefore, Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any of the outstanding issues could be resolved through a telephone interview, Applicant kindly requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the number below.

Applicant believes that no additional fees are due for the subject application. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 6, 2004
Customer No.: 21874



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